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Annual Report

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Annual report of the Board of Trustees of the Wisconsin Deaf & Dumb Institute <1852>-1853

… Annual report of the Trustees and Officer of the Wisconsin Institute for the Education of the Deaf and Dumb 1854-<1861>, <1868>

LLMC #: 01226t

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

BOARD OF TRUSTEES,

OF THE

WISCONSIN DEAF & DUMB INSTITUTE.

FOR THE YEAR 1852.

MADISON:
DAVID ATWOOD, PRINTER.
1853.

Hon. L. J. FARWELL,

Governor of the State of Wisconsin:

I have the honor of presenting you herewith the first Annual Report of the Trustees of the Wisconsin Institute for the Education of the Deaf and Dumb.

By order of the Board of Trustees,

F. K. PHŒNIX, Sec'y.

REPORT:

An organization of our Board was effected according to the Act of Incorporation, in June last, at which time the following Officers were chosen:

President.—H. HUNT.
Treasurer.—WYMAN SPOONER.
Secretary.—F. K. PHŒNIX.
Principal.—J. R. BRADWAY.

Wyman Spooner having at a subsequent meeting tendered his resignation as Treasurer, A. H. Taggart was chosen in his stead.—Our Principal, J. R. Bradway having also resigned, Rev. Lucius Foote was chosen.

The Terms of the Trustees were determined by lot, as follows:

W. SPOONER, E. CHEESBRO, W. C. ALLEN,	For one year.
G. G. WILLIAMS, J. A. MAXWELL, H. HUNT,	For two years.
J. C. MILLS, P. W. LATE, F. K. PHŒNIX,	For three years.

At the time of organizing, measures were taken to establish a School and in July it was commenced under the general supervision of J. R. Bradway, Principal, and John A. Mills, Teacher.—Mr. Mills is an interesting and worthy young man—himself a deaf mute and a graduate of the New York Institution, in whom the

Board have entire confidence with respect to his moral character and capacity for conducting the Primary Department—necessarily the principal one until the Institute Buildings are erected.

The Reports of the Principal and Teacher are herewith submitted. The Board would only remark in this connection that they have been highly gratified with the interest and improvement evinced by the scholars, and the general character and prospects of the school, for which they feel that many thanks are due the Principal and Teacher.

Soon after our organization, measures were taken to obtain a suitable location for the Institute Buildings, which resulted in securing a valuable and eligible site of 11 64-100 acres near the village of Delevan.

An appropriation of $1000 a year, for three years, having been made for the construction of the proper building, a Building Committee was appointed, who reported a series of plans and specifications, prepared by S. C. Kelsey, Architect, of this place, which were adopted by the Board, and approved by the Governor.

According to these the contract has been let for a Building, to be constructed of brick 34x44 of two stories, besides the basement and attic; to be completed conditionally by the first day of January next, or at the furthest, by the first day of June, 1854. In this Building, thirty or thirty-five pupils can be comfortably accommodated.

The Building now under contract, forms but a part of the whole design, which was perfected with great care, and at considerable expense, and when carried out it is believed will fully justify the expectations, and meet the wants of all concerned in this noble endowment. It is with not a little State pride, and indeed with feelings we believe not less pardonable, than pleasing, that as citizens of Wisconsin, we recur to the history of this munificent grant, in behalf of the unfortunate deaf-mute—made at so early a period by our Legislature, and under circumstances of unusual financial embarassment.

As Education is our stronghold, so may impartiality and active sympathy in its bestowment be our boast.

The present number of deaf-mutes in our State is sixty-five, according to the census returns for 1850. This in the opinion of the Board is entirely erroneous. The general average of the whole Northern States, which we also think unquestionably too low, owing to this and similar errors, gives one deaf-mute to 2060 inhabitants. According to the census of 1850 our State contained 365,391 inhabitants which would give 148 deaf-mutes. There are then at the present time probably not less than 175 in this State, of whom a fifth or sixth part, so soon as they can be reached, would be likely to attend school; and thereafter the *annual* application might be expected to equal one in thirty-four of the whole number in the State. These estimates are made in accordance with the results of the investigations and experience of Dr. Peet, the President of the New York Institution, to whom the Board would thus publicly tender their warmest acknowledgements for repeated favors.

By the Teacher's Report, it will be seen that there are now eight scholars in attendance, and we learn that nearly or quite as many more are expected to commence during the present winter. Should they do so, an assistant Teacher will be required. Of the present number, five are State beneficiaries, requiring nearly $100 per annum for their support. Should there be but ten such, it would require about $1000 the present year, in addition to teachers' wages, fuel and other necessary expenses. No money has as yet been received, but of the $500 voted for the support of the School in 1852, there is according to schedule B, the sum of $249 28 unappropriated—in addition to which, the Board respectfully ask the sum of $1500, for the support of the School, the present year.

Of the $3000, granted for a building, there has been appropriated according to schedule C, the sum of $2981 25, leaving a balance of $18,75 unappropiated.

Before the building can be comfortably occupied, the lot should

be fenced, a well dug, and suitable furniture and fixtures for the house, provided the present year, for which the Board ask a further appropriation of $1000.

We would request that a liberal number of copies of this Report be forwarded the Secretary, for the use of the Institution and for distribution.

In conclusion, the Board would remark, that though conscious of the honor, they are not less so, of the responsibilites of their position, which they feel unable rightly to discharge, without the kindly aid and co-operation of the friends of Education, not only in this State, but throughout our common country.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

H. HUNT, Pres't Board Trustees.

F. K. PHŒNIX, Sec'y.

REPORT OF THE PRINCIPAL.

To the Board of Trustees of the Wisconsin Deaf and Dumb Asylum:

GENTLEMEN:—

In compliance with your request I herewith submit my first Report, which from the short time that has elapsed, since I assumed the responsibility of Principal, must necessarily be brief.

The Board having failed to define my duties, as the law provides, I have been guided only by the best interests of the Institution.—Whatever they appeared to demand, I have most cheerfully undertaken—and in this effort have been most promptly and ably seconded by our Teacher, Mr. Mills.

During my supervision of the school, the conduct of all connected with it has been such as to meet my entire approval. The efforts of the Teacher in its behalf I regard as worthy of particular mention—entitling him to the entire confidence of the Board, and the friends of the Institution generally.

Aided by Mr. Mills' knowledge of the residences of those for whose benefit the Institution was designed, I have endeavored by private letters to call them in, that they might partake of the inestimable blessing placed within their reach, by the munificence of the State. In this I have as yet, but partially succeeded.

Some embarassment has attended my efforts for want of ready funds with which to procure books, and other things that are very much needed to facilitate the communication of knowledge.

I would respectfully suggest to the Board, the propriety of purchasing, for the use of the School, the following articles:—a Terrestrial Globe, of respectable size, a series of Outline Maps, a

plate of the different Geometrical Diagrams, a set of models of solids, as cubes, pyramids, cones, &c., a scale of the elementary measures, from one inch, up to one yard, a chart of colors, and charts, containing the various kinds of letters and figures, written and printed.

The mind will receive much more readily, and retain more indelibly, impressions received from sensible objects, than from mere verbal descriptions of those objects. If it be important that those who have all their faculties in exercise, be aided by such illustrations from sensible objects, how much more important for those thus deprived of the ordinary means of communication.

The progress made by the pupils, is highly satisfactory to myself, and to all the friends I believe, who have visited the Institution—and shows most conclusively that though "the ear is dull that it cannot hear" yet the eye is quick and the understanding unclouded.

In conclusion, gentlemen, permit me for reasons imperative with myself, most respectfully to tender my resignation, together with my sincere thanks for the kind co-operation I have ever received at your hands. I leave you with the hope that some person more able than myself to discharge the duties of Principal, will be called to that station.

And be assured, gentlemen, that my best wishes will ever attend you in these and all other efforts to ameliorate the condition of that unfortunate class of our fellow citizens, who otherwise must forever remain comparatively isolated and cheerless, their minds shrouded in the dark and gloomy clouds of ignorance.

Very Respectfully,

J. R. BRADWAY.

REPORT OF THE TEACHER.

To the Board of Trustees of the Wisconsin Institute for the Education of the Deaf and Dumb:

I have the pleasure of presenting you a report of my doings since the commencement of my duties as a Teacher in this Institution.

Since the 19th of July last, I have taken charge of the pupils committed to my care, under your directions. The pupils in attendance at present, are eight in number. The pupils of the Institution have with a few exceptions, enjoyed good health during the year.

The progress of the pupils in the acquisition of written language, and in the various practical branches, that form the elements of a good English education, has been such as is highly gratifying to themselves, gratifying to their parents and guardians, and I trust satisfactory to your honorable Board.

The present class is constituted of those pupils who entered after the commencement of the present term, and a part of them have been but a short time in attendance. The instructions given, have been as follows, viz:

The formation and use of the letters of the alphabet as written and represented by the hand.

Penmanship—writing with the crayon on the black board with special exercises on Tuesday and Friday afternoon.

The numbers in figures and words from one, to one hundred.

The construction of simple sentences from "Elementary Lessons."

The class have gone over and reviewed one hundred and twenty

five lessons of this book, embracing nearly eight hundred words; the different parts of speech, the inflections of nouns, adjectives, verbs and prepositions. The Scripture Lessons.

The hours of instruction in the class are from 9 to 12 A. M., and from 1 to 4 o'clock P. M.

Gentlemen—In submitting this my first report, permit me to express my sincere thanks for the partiality you have shown in tendering to me the opportunity of benefitting those of my fellow beings, who are alike unfortunate with myself. And be assured, gentlemen, that no effort on my part shall be wanting to render the Institution prosperous, and a blessing to those to whom nature has denied the sense of hearing, and the power of speech. Gentlemen, permit me here to urge you, most earnestly, and through you, the friends of the mute, generally, to visit us that you may be perfectly satisfied of our doings. Our pupils will be glad at all times to show by their industry, and by the progress they have made, that they are not unmindful of the great blessings which are bestowed upon them, and that they appreciate the advantages they enjoy.

Respectfully submitted,

JNO. A. MILLS.

Wisconsin Institute for the Deaf and Dumb,
December, 31st, 1852.

Schedule A.

LIST OF PUPILS

In the Wisconsin Institute for the education of the Deaf and Dumb, for the year ending Dec. 31, 1852.

NAMES.	RESIDENCE.		DATE OF ADMISSION.
	TOWN.	COUNTY.	
Ariadue P. Cheesbro,.....	Darien,.....	Walworth,.....	October 11. 1852.....
James A. Dudley,.....	Darien.....	Walworth,.....	July 19, 1852,.....
Washington Farrer,.....	Summerville,..	Rock,.....	November 23, 1852.....
Betsey Hewes,.....	Eagle, ...	Waukesha.....	December 24, 1852.....
Charles Hewes,.....	.....	Waukesha.....	December 24, 1852.....
Abraham Hewes,.....	"	Waukesha.....	December 24, 1842.....
Helen Hewes,.....	"	Waukesha.....	
Clarissa B. Kingman,.....	Darien.....	Walworth,.....	July 19, 1852.....

Schedule B.

Showing the accounts allowed by the Board of Trustees for the sup- of the School, for the year ending Dec. 31, 1852.

January 1, 1853.	E. B. Gates, Bill Furniture,.....	$ 28 25
" " "	H. Hunt, Wood, Rent and Sundries,.....	33 58
" " "	J. R. Bradway, Wood.....	1 59
" " "	L. Gloyd, Wood.....	1 13
" " "	George James, Wood,.....	2 25
" " "	Mr. Harrington, Labor,.....	1 25
" " "	F. K. Phœnix, Stove, portage and wood,.....	13 67
" " "	Mrs. Tater, Board,.....	7 00
" " "	Mrs. Stewart, Board,.....	9 50
" " "	E. Cheesebro, Books,.....	2 50
" " "	J. R. Bradway, Services as Principal,.....	50 00
" " "	J. A. Mills, Services as Teacher,.....	100 00
		$ 250 72
	Balance,.....	249 28
	State appropriated,.....	$ 500 00

Schedule C.

Showing the amount appropriated by Board of Trustees, out of Building Fund of $3000.

January 1, 1853.	H. P. Peet, Plans and Specifications,	$ 60 00
" " "	S. C. Kelsey, Plans and Specifications,	40 00
" " "	S. S. Barlow, Traveling Expenses,	15 00
" " "	Messrs. Utter, Printing,	1 25
" " "	On Contract for Building,	2845 00
		$2981 25
	Balance,	18 75
		$3000 00